

IOG Saltex sets out its stall as Europe's leading Exhibition for Open Space Professionals

With approaching 300 companies already committed to stand space at IOG SALTEX 2006, coupled with a host of new initiatives designed to add further value to the time spent at the show by visitors, next year's IOG SALTEX at Windsor Racecourse on 5-7 September will reinforce the show as Europe's leading annual event for the open space management profession.

With over 15,000 visitors to this year's event all eager to see the hundreds of products, techniques and technologies on display, plus an array of live demonstrations and the unrivalled education presentations, it is clear that the industry consensus is for an annual showcase of the tools and strategies that will keep open space professionals fully up to date with all the developments that will enable them to be more effective and efficient in their day-to-day roles.

The continuing success of IOG SALTEX highlights how the annual show continually meets the needs of exhibitors – "we sold machines at the show, and we also saw lots of overseas customers who were buying", said BLEC director, Gary Mumby – as well as visitors, as Peter Bennett, chief groundsman at Ilton Cricket Club, summed up: "I can't think of a better place to be when you're planning to buy new products and want to make a judgement about what's the best for your needs."

Comments like these have spurred the growing exhibitor list, with turf care equipment specialists like Allen Power Equipment, Allett Mowers, Etesia, Hallmarket Turf Machinery, Lloyds & Co Letchworth, SGM Hire, Sherriff Amenity, Terrain Aeration Surfaces, TRILO UK and Trimax Mowing Systems all having re-booked, complemented by Hags Play and Wicksteed Leisure, for example, from the play sector and Massey Ferguson, McCormick Tractors, Vauxhall and Yamaha Motor (UK) representing the commercial/large vehicle equipment sector, as well as the host of other exhibitors that between them will be displaying the most comprehensive range of products to satisfy everyone's needs.

In addition to a new-look central show area based around the IOG Education Zone and an expanded seminar programme, next year's special events programme will include the introduction of a new Technical Advice Clinic where visitors can simply turn up and talk to an expert about, say, a particular turf and fine grass maintenance problem.

There is also the planned Energy and Environmental Village where the eco-friendly focus will concentrate on aspects such as green waste management, water recycling and energy-efficient vehicles.

Also on the agenda is an exciting new feature area aimed at stadium and arena managers, building on the success of the IOG SALTEX Instant Stadium and being developed for next year's show in close co-operation with stadium managers, and the suppliers of artificial surfaces, floodlighting and stadium seating, for example.

Again it is planned to stage the ever-popular Internet Cafe and the sometimes breathtaking tree climbing demonstrations, and to develop the highly-successful Groundsman Live 'round table' debates covering a range of top-of-the-agenda 'hot buttons' for the show's ever-expanding audience profile.

With a remit of appealing to the complete open space industry, IOG SALTEX regards as invaluable the ongoing support it receives from various organisations, including the Association of Play Industries (API), the British Arboricultural School of Excellence (BASE), the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) and the Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA) and, of course, it works in close collaboration with numerous sector teams to continue to attract a high-profile audience to the show.

So, it is clear that the IOG SALTEX organisers are wasting no time in setting the scene for a blockbuster event in 2006!

- IOG SALTEX 2006 will again embrace fine turf and sports surfaces, turf maintenance equipment, children's outdoor play and safety surfacing, contractors, commercial vehicles, outdoor leisure and facilities management and software as well as security equipment, and is aimed at everyone involved in open space management – from groundsmen and greenkeepers through to architects, designers and surveyors as well as local authority and leisure facility managers.

Call 020 8232 1600 for more information.